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# Military Times ranks South Dakota State as 8th-best four-year school

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South Dakota State University has been named eighth among four-year schools by Military Times in its Best for Vets: Colleges 2017 rankings. The eighth annual rankings factor in the results of Military Times' comprehensive school-by-school survey of veteran and military student offerings and rates of academic achievement. SDSU was ranked No. 11 and No. 12 in the respective 2015 and 2016 rankings.

"It was a nice surprise to see us break into the top 10," said Russ Chavez, SDSU's interim director for Veterans Affairs. "It confirms that we are doing the right things for our students who are veterans. For example, in the spring 2016 semester we had we had 3,300 student visits to our Veterans Resource Center, an increase of

nearly 900 visits. We expect that number to continue to climb due to its new location in Brown Hall. Our students have said the center allows for camaraderie that they have missed once they leave military service but it also has many other resources available to help them be successful."

As with all Best for Vets rankings, Best for Vets: Colleges 2017 is an editorially independent news project that evaluates the many factors that help make colleges and universities a good fit for service members, military veterans and their families. More than 500 colleges took part in this year's detailed survey.

"We limit our list to encourage competition, and we genuinely hope this helps raise the bar for veterans on campus," said Amanda Miller, editor of Best for Vets.

Military Times' annual Best for Vets: Colleges survey asks colleges and universities to meticulously document a tremendous array of services, special rules, accommodations and financial incentives offered to students with military ties; and to describe many aspects of veteran culture on a campus. These institutions were evaluated in several categories, with university culture and academic outcomes bearing the most weight.

Military Times also factors in data from the Veterans Affairs and Defense departments, as well as three

U.S. Department of Education sources: the IPEDS Data Center, College Scorecard data and the Cohort Default Rate Database.

For the full Best for Vets: Colleges 2017 rankings, go to: <http://bestforvets.militarytimes.com/2017-11-01/colleges/4-year/>.

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South Dakota State University

Brookings, S.D. 57007

1-800-952-3541

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